



# October 2023 Alumni Newsletter



*Caldwell Fellows and Outdoor Adventures staff on a trip to Linville Gorge.*

## **A message from the Director**

The more time I spend in the space of leadership education, the more clear it is to me that the real work of the leader is self-work. The world is exploding with challenges of increasing complexity over which we feel diminishing power. How do we lead and serve when our own hearts are breaking as conflicts, violence and dysfunction proliferate?

We know the automatic response we feel to meet anger with anger and despair with despair and yet, as servant leaders, we are challenged to make different responses. Responding to conflict from a place of inner peace

requires great discipline and practice. Critical thinking through complexity requires a non-anxious presence. Equipping leaders who can navigate complexities with skill and determination is our work and to meet these challenges we are increasingly focused on the work of spiritual and emotional maturity with our Fellows.

A significant contributor to well-being and groundedness is a capacity for creative thinking and doing. Our monthly dinner seminars this year are centered on the theme of [\*Creating a Life\*](#).

Shelley Smith, Caldwell class of 2011, Creative Director for [Anchorlight](#) Gallery and Studios is working alongside our student dinner team in helping shape and lead this year's series. As part of the series, students have created 'Intention cards,' naming an undertaking or discipline they are committing to this year intended to deepen creative thinking and doing.

What is feeding your creativity and peace?

*~Janice*

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## The 'So What?'

For 56 years this program has pursued the mission of developing promising young people for lifetimes of thoughtful living and leadership. Through experiential learning, coaching, mentoring, and an intensive curriculum in self-awareness and leadership we have sought to be a positive force by sending well-prepared leaders into the world.

... And so what? Being busy with experiences and programming too often becomes an end to itself and we measure our 'success' by our busy-ness and our engaged students. The true question of impact, however, lies less with the students than with our alumni. Thus, we are undertaking an alumni survey with the precise question: "*What impact has this program had on your life?*"

In November, you will receive a postcard from our office, directing you to a link where your stories and reflections will be collected. The NCSU Office of Institutional Assessment is guiding this survey and collecting the data. Staff will see only the final report with alumni identified by decade in the program, not by name.

Leadership education is a dynamic field that demands an attitude of vigilance and evolution and commitment to a culture of learning for its effectiveness. Your input will provide us great guidance as we seek to stay relevant and impactful. Thank you in advance for your participation.



Above: Our 2023 class of Caldwell alumni coaches at their graduation, along with with Sackeena Gordon-Jones, COO and President of Transformation Edge Consulting. After ten months of classes and supervised coach training, they are ICF certified coaches. The Caldwell Fellows subsidizes the training and our alumni, in turn, donate their time to serve our current Fellows. This is our third group to complete the work; our fourth cohort has just launched.

Pictured left to right: Shreye Saxena, Sackeena Gordon-Jones, Anne Powers, and Rajan Singh.

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## Guiding our Practice, Advising our Future

### The Caldwell Fellows Advisory Committee

At points of transition across the five plus decades of our program, strategic planning teams have provided short-term and focused guidance and recommendations. This year we are shifting from periodic teams to the formation of an ongoing advisory committee that will provide guidance and vision in the program areas of:

- design, content and partnerships
- assessment
- advocacy
- staff needs

Our thanks to those who have accepted a two-year commitment to the Advisory Committee which will launch this month.

- Caldwell Alumni: Lisa Bullard (1988), Donnell Mitchell (1992) Alli Walton (2000), Reeba Monachan Attrey (2006), Dane Emmerling (2008), Lingchao Mao (2020)
- NC State University Staff: Holly Hurlburt (Asst. Dean & Director, NCSU Academic Enrichment Programs), Jason Bocarro (NCSU Owens-Shelton Distinguished Professor of Global Leadership), Jordan Luzader (Asst. Director of Assessment for DASA)
- Alumni Association Board of Directors: Ryan Hester, Susan Brooks (1990)
- Leadership Professionals: Kirk Warner (Buckeye Leadership Fellows), Katrin Baker (Center for Community Self-Help, Director of Learning & Development), Meredith Henderson (Director of Go Global NC), Todd Deal (Center for Creative Leadership), Susan Reincke (Center for Creative Leadership)

The financial health of the program is overseen by the NCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and the members of the Caldwell Fellows Committee of the Board. This is separate from the advisory committee. Caldwell alumni are represented on the Board by Susan Brooks, Jane Monaco (1987) and Katherine Drake Stowe (2009). Ryan Hester (Chair of the BOD is a Caldwell-by-marriage; his spouse is Kara Main-Hester, class of 2002). Our student representative to the Board is Eli Edds (Class of 2025).



*The Class of 2026 Fellows on their sophomore seminar field trip visiting our six service-learning partnerships. The Open Door Clinic is our longest community partnership; 15+ years of Fellows have served at the Clinic.*

## 2024 Selection Weekend Alumni Engagement

# Opportunities

## February 23-24, 2024

This year's Caldwell Fellows Selection weekend will feature multiple opportunities for alumni to engage with each other, current Fellows, and Caldwell Fellows candidates for the Class of 2027.

### Friday, February 23rd

- Alumni Welcome Reception. Details to be announced. Stay tuned for more.

### Saturday, February 24th

Two different engagement opportunities await:

- **Selection Interviews for the Caldwell Class of 2027** - (8:30 am - 3:30 pm; Hunt Library; breakfast and lunch provided). Join alumni partners to interview and score Caldwell Class of 2027 finalists. If you are interested in serving as a part of our Selection team, please complete [this short Google form](#) by the end of November and we will confirm your assignment by early-December. This form includes all three stages of the Selection process: online application reviewers (early January), semi-finalist interviewers (February 3 at NC State), and finalist interviewers (February 24 at NC State). Please select all that apply based on your interests and availability.
- **Career Conversations with Current Fellows** - (9:00 am - 1:00 pm; Park Alumni Center; breakfast and lunch provided). Participate in a mini career conference with current Fellows. This new event was created by our Majors and Affinities Student Leadership Team and will feature Alumni panels and table discussions facilitated by alumni like you on career and life themes with a holistic approach to the aspects of our life that make for meaning, purpose and fulfillment. We seek alumni from a wide range of career fields and life experiences. If you are interested in serving as a part of our Career Conversations team, please complete [this short Google form](#) by the end of November and we will confirm your assignment by early-December.

*If you are potentially interested in both Selection Day interviewing AND the Career Conversations event on February 24, and will trust us to put you where we most need you, you are encouraged to complete BOTH forms.*

**Evening of Saturday, February 24th** - (6:00 PM - 10:00 PM) Join our annual Gala at the NC Museum of Art. (Ticket Sales Open in December).

**Accommodations for the weekend are available at the State View Hotel.**

**[Room Block Available at the StateView Hotel.](#)**

Join us in shaping the future of Caldwell Fellows and the next generation of leaders!



*A scene from last year's Selection Weekend Alumni Conference.*

## Call for 2023 Caldwell Fellows Application Reviewers

October 1 the on-line application for the Caldwell Fellows Class of 2027 opened for first-year students at NC State. January 8 the application portal closes and we turn to you for the formidable task of reviewing applications. Key to the effectiveness of our selection process is the participation of alumni and friends whose experience and belief in our mission help identify those best suited to the program.

Now is the time to let us know of your interest in any of the three stages of selection

- Online reviews (mid-January)
- Semi-finalist day (Saturday, February 3 on Main Campus)
- Selection day / finalist interviews (Saturday, February 24 on Centennial Campus)

This brief interest form details the stages and timelines. Express your interest by the end of November and we will be in touch in early December to confirm your role. <https://forms.gle/vxDo6ro83gW9vZXo8>

## Recent Program Highlights

**Family Breakfast** - Thanks to the added capacity created by a year of experience together, our staff team

ventured this fall into a new space with overwhelming positive response. Aligned with NC State's parents and families weekend, we offered our first 'Family Members Breakfast' and filled Hunt Library's event space with 150+ folks. A student panel shared stories of program values and the work of pursuing those values through embracing the challenging work of being a Fellow. And there were alumni in the space... Ron and Cindy Boling (1989) were present as parents of Noell, a member of the class of 2026.



*Current Fellows panelists at the inaugural Caldwell Families Breakfast.*

**Center for Creative Leadership** - Thirty-nine Fellows just completed the annual three-day training at CCL which has been a program tradition since our inception. Student feedback has led us to shift the CCL experience from the senior to junior year and to make that change, we included both classes this fall. The consistent face at every CCL training for Caldwell Fellows has been the legendary Bill Sternbergh. Though now retired from CCL, Bill is always present when Fellows are in Greensboro. This year a panel with Bill and alumni from different program eras shared stories of our shared history and impact from the CCL

experience. Joining Bill were:

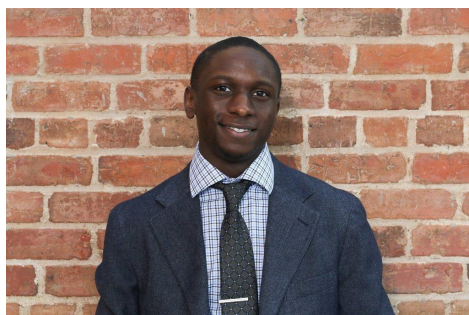
Fletcher Steele (Class of 1973), Anne Powers (Class of 1990), and Ben Wooten (Class of 2006).



*Alumni panelists at CCL this October. Pictured left to right: Ben Wooten, Anne Powers, Fletcher Steele, Bill Sternbergh, and Janice Odom.*

## Student Spotlights

Take a peek at some of the experiences shaping the lives of our current Fellows.





Tyler Void, Class of 2023, shared the story of his recent internship with ExxonMobil.

Read more

Sydney Jett, Class of 2025, shared her experiences studying abroad in South Korea.

Read more

Peyton Gardner, Class of 2023, shared the story of her internship at BASF.

Read more

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## Alumni Spotlights

We are proud to congratulate Cathy Sigal on her recent receipt of the prestigious Watauga Medal, NC State's highest non-academic honor in recognition of members of the Wolfpack who have made extraordinary contributions to the university's advancement. Cathy received the medal on September 7, 2023 alongside Mike Constantino and Tom Stafford. Read more about Cathy's accomplishments in [this article](#).



*Cathy Sigal and Dr. Gerald Hawkins at the Watauga Medal Ceremony.*

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And we are delighted and tickled to welcome one of our alumni, Stephen Sumner, back to the Wolfpack on campus as the newly hired NC Japan Center (NCJC) Director. Stephen will bring a wealth of expertise and a servant-leader mindset to this exciting campus initiative. Read more about his new role in [this short article](#).

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## Lifelong learning within the Caldwell Fellows staff

The lifelong learning that is a value for our program is embodied in your Caldwell staff and serves as a model for our students. In addition to their full-time positions with the program, both Chester and Tabitha are pursuing advanced degrees.

Chester is in his final stretch of a doctoral program in Educational Leadership from East Carolina University. His research is focused on helping assess and address the sense of inclusion underrepresented students experience in outdoor education programming.

Tabitha is working on an MBA at East Carolina University.

Janice is pursuing coaching certification along with this year's cohort of alumni and she recently completed her certification in Emotional Intelligence.

Team development is also important to our staff. David Frink (Class of 1998) drew on his expertise as a professional coach to recently guide us through insights from our different profiles given by the Clifton Strengths Finder. David also serves as the volunteer coordinator of our coaching program for current Fellows.



Caldwell Fellows Program | NC State University | 1115 Pullen Hall | 919.515.3837  
<https://caldwellfellows.ncsu.edu>

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